

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-06 SSO-00 RSC-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 INRE-00 /030 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8933

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS TEHRAN 9430

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA, IR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: MID-AMERICA TRADE MISSION

REF: (A) DAMASCUS 2547

(B) STATE 242968

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS HERE MADE VIGOROUS EFFORT
YESTERDAY EVENING TO PERSUADE MID-AMERICA TRADE MISSION
TO INCREASE ITS REPRESENTATION FOR DAMASCUS VISIT.
ALTHOUGH JAMES INGERSOLL IS SIMPLY NOT ABLE TO VISIT
DAMASCUS, REF (B) WAS USEFUL IN ENGAGING HIM IN OUR
EFFORT TO PERSUADE ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF MISSION TO
VISIT DAMASCUS.
ALL MEMBERS OF GROUP SEEMED
TO UNDERSTAND DESIRABILITY IN POLITICAL TERMS OF
GROUP GOING TO DAMASCUS BUT WERE UNANIMOUS IN VIEW
THAT TRADE AND INVESTMENT POSSIBILITIES WITH SYRIA AT
THIS TIME QUITE NEGLIGIBLE.

2. BOTH BRIGGS AND MINER INSIST TO US THAT MID-AMERICA
COMMITTEE NEVER AGREED TO ALL MISSION MEMBERS VISITING
SYRIA, MERELY THAT MISSION WOULD DO WHAT IT COULD TO
INSURE THAT SOME MEMBERS WOULD STOP BY DAMASCUS.
EMBASSY TEHRAN OF COURSE UNABLE TO JUDGE WHAT MAY HAVE
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HAPPENED IN THE EVIDENT MISUNDERSTANDING THAT HAS ARISEN.

3. AS MATTERS STAND AT THIS MOMENT, FOLLOWING PERSONS WILL BE ABOARD ESMARK CHARTERED PLANE FOR TEHRAN-DAMASCUS LEAVING MORNING NOVEMBER 7: KELLY, HESKISSON, LARMEE, BALL, BAKER, FISHER, MINER, GRAHAM AND AXTELL. OF THESE NINE, SIX WILL STAY THROUGH NOVEMBER 8 AND THREE WILL REMAIN IN DAMASCUS AS LONG AS PRODUCTIVE TALKS ARE POSSIBLE.

4. IN ADDITION TO FOREGOING, CONTINENTAL BANK REPRESENTATIVE (COZES) AND REPRESENTATIVE OF FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF CHICAGO (NAME UNKNOWN) NOW IN BEIRUT WILL ARRIVE DAMASCUS NOVEMBER 7 BY THEIR OWN MEANS.

5. FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL MID-AMERICA COMMITTEE MEMBERS HAVE AGREED TO VISIT DAMASCUS PROVIDED SPACE CAN BE FOUND ON A TEHRAN-BEIRUT FLIGHT LEAVING EARLY MORNING NOVEMBER 7 AND THEN BY CAB TO DAMASCUS: MR. AND MRS. LINDGREN, MR. GIESSEN AND MR. LARENZ AND ADDITIONALLY, MR. AND MRS. HEHMEYER ARE DISTINCT POSSIBILITIES PROVIDED THEY CAN ARRIVE IN DAMASCUS ON NOVEMBER 7 AND BE BACK IN TEHRAN NLT NIGHT OFF NOVEMBER 8.

6. MID AMERICA COMMITTEE HOPES THAT EMBASSY DAMASCUS CAN ARRANGE A GENUINELY FRUITFUL SERIES OF APPOINTMENTS FOR THOSE MEMBERS VISITING DAMASCUS. BRIGGS IS NOW ENDEAVORING TO BOOK SPACE FOR FOUR INDIVIDUALS LISTED PARA 5 ABOVE FOR TEHRAN-BEIRUT. MEMBERS ALSO REQUEST EMBASSY BOOK HOTEL SPACE IN DAMASCUS AND ASSIST WITH SYRIAN VISA REQUIREMENTS AS NEEDED.

7. FOR BEIRUT: GROUP HOPES EMBASSY BEIRUT CAN ASSIST IN OVERLAND TRAVEL BEIRUT TO DAMASCUS UPON THEIR ARRIVAL IN BEIRUT.

8. WE WILL ADVISE CONFIRMED ARRIVAL TIMES IN BEIRUT AS THIS BECOMES KNOWN TO US.
HELMS

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